

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Monday, November 20, 2017 | 10:00 AM

VCU East Engineering Hall | Room E3218 | Richmond, VA

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Gary Tepper at 10:00 AM.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Regina Carter, Michael Lempke, Woody Lawman, Tom DePonty, David Christian, Eugene Grecheck, Andrew Hutton, Rich Diddams, Gary Tepper, John Capps, Al Christopher, and Bob Bailey.

The following VNECA Board Members were absent: Colleen Deegan, Bill Briscoe, Pam Norris, Jack Lesko, Tim Stuller, and Ken Ball

The following VNECA staff was present: Eric Bateman, DMME.

The following non-members were present: Marshall Cohen (Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium), Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter), and David Martin (Martin Images News).

INTRODUCTIONS:

After remarks of welcome by Vice Chairman Gary Tepper, authority board members provided introductions.

OFFICER ELECTIONS:

The first order of business was to address officer elections. Vice Chairman Tepper opened up the floor for nominations or volunteers for Chairman. Vice Chairman Tepper nominated VNECA Treasurer Tom DePonty to the position due to his experience at AREVA (now Framatome, Inc.) and in the nuclear industry. A motion was made by David Christian and seconded by Michael Lempke to appoint him as Chair of VNECA. Tom DePonty was elected unanimously by the members present.

With Tom DePonty's election, the VNECA's Treasurer position was vacant. Vice Chairman Tepper opened up the floor for nominations or volunteers for Treasurer. Eugene Grecheck volunteered to fill the position. A motion was made and seconded to appoint him as Treasurer of VNECA. Eugene Grecheck was elected unanimously by the members present to serve as Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES:

Vice Chairman Tepper proposed adoption of the Meeting Minutes from the March 23, 2017 meeting. Bob Bailey moved for approval and was seconded. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM UPDATE:

Marshall Cohen, Executive Director of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC), provided the Authority with an update on recent VNEC activities, future plans, and the Consortium's strategic priorities for 2017. Specifically, Mr. Cohen highlighted the Consortium's recent Energy Workforce and Education Pathways Conference, efforts on approaching the Virginia Board of Education to adopt an Energy Workforce Cluster, and meeting with Secretary Rick Perry and the Department of Energy's new staff. In addition, the Consortium is working with the Virginia congressional delegation to increase advocacy for nuclear issues, focusing on the impact of plant closures and the role of nuclear generation in meeting clean air goals, among other topics.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT:

Eric Bateman presented the Authority with the updated draft of the 2017 VNECA Annual Report he had created based upon the submissions and edits of the Board Members. Al Christopher moved that the Authority vote on the 2017 VNECA Annual Report. Andrew Hutton seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted in favor of it. Bateman sent out the final report to the Governor and members of General assembly, as well as published it on VNECA's website, on November 21, 2017.

NEXT STEPS:

Vice Chairman Tepper opened up the floor for discussions on what are the next steps for VNECA in 2018. Bob Bailey recommended reaching out to other energy authorities and how nuclear fits into the overall energy plan. Regina Carter suggested an energy summit to learn more about what resources are available in the Commonwealth. Chairman Tom DePonty wanted to know more about RGGI and how it will impact Virginia's energy mix. He also noted that previous VNECA meetings have involved conversations on how VNECA should evolve, whether it is on presentations or engaging in advocacy on energy mix. Rich Diddams agreed with Chairman DePonty's suggestions and recommended including cybersecurity. Eugene Grecheck recommended reengaging with Department of Energy on the Virginia Energy Cluster as a way to promote advance reactor technology.

Marshall Cohen recommended a joint request between the Authority and the Consortium to brief the new Governor and his administration.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Having concluded official business, Vice Chairman Tepper opened the meeting up for public comment. The Board received comment from Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter). Ms.

Gray expressed her strong opposition to expand nuclear energy in the state due to her concerns about cost, storage, and safety.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no additional business left, the Authority adjourned at 11:20 AM.